

REBELS SEND DRAGGED ARMY TO RELIEF OF DOOMED TOWN

Dictator Scrapes Up Force of 2,500 Men From Streets of Capital to Rescue Garrison at Torreon.

Federals There Face Certain Defeat, But They Refuse to Surrender to Villa, Who Controls Situation.

MEXICO CITY, March 28.—General Huerta took desperate means in his endeavors to save Torreon from the rebels today, when he started 2,500 conscripted soldiers from the city. The men were picked up on the streets of the capital, pressed into service, armed with arms and uniforms, and hurriedly placed aboard trains. They left for Torreon early today.

The dictator has been notified that his troops are staving off surrender in Torreon, although the rebels are in control of three-quarters of the city.

It is believed here the rebels planned in advance simultaneous battles, beginning March 25. Although various claims of victory are made by the government, other reports indicate that the Carrizosa campaign has been most successful.

A battle, starting at midnight, is being fought at Tampico today. This is the sixth conflict pressed by the rebels since the attack on Torreon began. It is estimated that in the last three days 1,000 men have been killed on each side. This estimate does not include Torreon, where the losses are as yet unknown.

Dead and Dying Strew The Streets of Torreon

ROMEZ PALACIO, Durango, Mexico, March 28.—Although fully three-quarters of the city is already in control of Gen. Francisco Villa's constitutional army, and the outcome is no longer in doubt, Torreon has not yet surrendered.

Hand-to-hand fighting of the most desperate character has been in progress in the streets all night, but at nearly hour today Gen. Refugio Velasco, the gallant commander of the federal forces, has abandoned hope and had not ceased to fight. He told his men that he will never abandon the stronghold entrusted to his care until the last man of his garrison is gone and his own life has been forfeited.

Despite this display of spirit, the constitutional forces are so overwhelmed in numbers and in equipment that it is believed the final crushing of General Villa's Torreon campaign cannot be delayed longer than a few days.

Delayed Final Assault.

Villa delayed his final assault late Friday afternoon, from the north side, following a report from Gen. Maclovio Herrera, commanding the troops to the westward, that he had beaten down the federal defense at that point, pierced the lines, and fought his way into the hall of the building in Torreon.

This was the signal for Villa, and he immediately ordered his troops, who had been resting all day in preparation for the battle to begin the attack. The federal artillery fire, which had continued in brief intermissions all day, increased. Villa's troops advanced at a double quick and poured a galling fire into the building. In the resistance of the federalists at the northern outskirts was weaker than had been anticipated, and Villa was able to enter Torreon proper without difficulty.

Fired From House-tops

Further in, however, the federalists had to open up numerous barricades, nearly every thoroughfare having been blocked. From behind these and from the tops of the houses the federal riflemen shot scores of attackers before they were themselves compelled to retreat to their barricades or other house-tops.

Up to this hour the defenders have succeeded in preventing the rebels taking the Plaza Principal.

As they approached the center of the city, the rebels found that Velasco had sent various machine guns on the housetops, commanding all nearby streets. These were worked with deadly effectiveness, making it impossible for the men to proceed rapidly. In some instances the rebels were forced to cut their way through the walls of adobe houses for distances of several blocks in order to get behind federal barricades.

During last night the fighting was at such close quarters that General Villa was compelled to stop his artillery fire because of the noise of his own men.

Gen. Ricardo Pena, who commanded the extreme federal outposts which attacked Escalon ten days ago, was slain by a rebel soldier in the streets, as was Colonel Reyna, of the Federalists. General Guardo Carranza and General Almonacid, two of Velasco's principal lieutenants, have been mortally wounded.

General Villa says he has lost no more men, although Gen. Trinidad Rodriguez was severely wounded during the night. Villa places his own dead at 100, and those of the federalists at more than 200.

FIGHT ON TOLLS LIKE A CIRCUS

"Joe" Sinnott, doorkeeper of the House, opined today that the toll fight was more like a circus—to some folks—than a serious legislative debate. The reason for his sarcastic reflections was the discovery that the women who invaded the galleries—and the men, too—brought their lunches, as if it was a picnic, scattered peanut shucks on the floor and left some "pop" bottles promiscuously distributed.

KNOWLAND INSISTS GREY BEAT WILSON

Republican From California Criticizes Wilson for Stand on Tolls Repeal.

"I question, if in the history of the world, there is afforded another example of as brilliant diplomacy as that displayed by the secretary of state for foreign affairs of Great Britain. On the floor of the American Congress I salute Sir Edward Grey and acknowledge him to be the keenest diplomat of the age."

Congressman Joseph R. Knowland of California, Republican member of the Interstate Commerce Committee, which reported the tolls repeal bill, opposed the repeal bill in the House today with the declaration that it represented a surrender to England and that British diplomacy had triumphed over the American brand.

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Recalls Britisher's Visit

Congressman Knowland said it was significant that Sir Edward Tyrrell, secretary to Sir Edward Grey, had paid three visits to the White House, one of these visits being on a Sunday and the other on Thanksgiving Day. He also referred to the visit to this country of Hon. Shirley Benn, member of parliament, adding: "Hon. Shirley Benn, after his return to London, declared at the Mansion House peace centenary meeting—and I have in my possession positive proof of his statements—that he had seen there another such spectacle in American history."

Keeps in Mind

"Keep in mind," continued Mr. Knowland, "this was before the President had taken the American people into his confidence. It is unfortunately significant also that the day of the visit of Sir Lionel Curzon to the White House announcement should be made of the President's intention to send to Congress a message urging the repeal of the Panama Canal tolls. The most charitable thing we say is that he has been imposed upon."

Says Wilson Erred

"That mystery surrounds all these negotiations and private interviews is the fault of no one but the Chief Executive," he said. "He entered the chamber on crutches, and carefully stowed them away behind his desk. He was warmly greeted by the Republican and Democratic colleagues."

Stone Returns to the Senate on Crutches

Senator Stone of Missouri, after a long illness today, appeared on the floor of the Senate for the first time in many weeks. He entered the chamber on crutches, and carefully stowed them away behind his desk. He was warmly greeted by the Republican and Democratic colleagues.

IN CONGRESS TODAY.

SENATE.
Met at noon.
Canal tolls discussion opens soon after beginning of session. Prof. J. H. Smith and Senator Hoke Smith were introduced and assaulted by Senator Brewster. Senate recesses for ten minutes to enable Senators Reed and Gronna to talk.

HOUSE.
Met at noon.
Resumed debate on Panama tolls repeal bill.
Public Land Committee continued consideration of coal land lease bill.

TOLLS DEBATE IS RENEWED IN HOUSE WITH LESS FEELING

Crowds in Galleries Seemingly Disappointed by Orderly Opening of Long Fight.

CLARK TO TAKE FLOOR AGAINST REPEAL TUESDAY

Harrison, Mississippi Democrat, Fires First Broadside at Wilson Measure.

With interest somewhat diminished after the spectacular skirmish and initial victory of the Administration forces yesterday the House today settled down to debate the Panama tolls repeal bill. Seventeen hours of discussion are yet to come, and the next display of oratorical fireworks is expected next Tuesday, when Speaker Champ Clark takes the floor against the Wilson proposal.

The attendance upon the floor today was not as representative as that of yesterday, when practically every member in Washington remained throughout a stirring afternoon. The galleries, however, were again crowded by noon. Spectators were rather disappointed when the debate opened up in orderly fashion, each side taking turns in sending an orator to the front.

Harrison Opens Fire

Congressman Harrison of Mississippi in whose district the President spent the Christmas holidays, fired the first broadside against repeal this afternoon. After a long study of the subject Mr. Harrison recently reached the decision that he must oppose the President, as deeply as he is regretted to do so.

Congressman Stevens, ranking Republican on the Interstate Commerce Committee, followed in a speech defending the repeal bill, and demonstrating that the House is not one of parties.

Mr. Knowland of California, who has strenuously opposed the repeal proposal since the President's attack upon the Administration's position, paying tribute to English diplomacy and taking a sharp attack upon the repeal bill, indicated he is convinced that the British diplomats have "put one over" in a present position.

Congressman Maloney of Illinois is another Republican lined up with the President. He favored repeal on economic grounds.

During the afternoon a dozen or more speakers will be heard for and against the repeal measure. The discussion, however, is lacking in the outward bitterness which marked the debates yesterday, although underneath there is still considerable feeling.

Await Clark's Speech

Now that the speech of Mr. Underwood is out of the way, the anti-repeal forces are looking forward especially to the speech of Speaker Clark, expected from Speaker Clark and Chairman Fitzgerald of the House Appropriations Committee.

Speaker Clark, whose statement against the rule caused a rumpus and accentuated the split in the Democratic party over the tolls controversy, has decided to make a speech against the repeal bill. He will take the floor Tuesday, after the tolls are passed.

(Continued on Second Page.)

LOAN COMPANIES AGREE TO TERMS

Twelve Ready to Accept Three-Fourths Principal and Cases Will Be Dropped.

Through an agreement between counsel representing twelve loan companies and the Corporation Counsel's office, a number of reorganizations for alleged violation of the "loan shark" law have been abandoned. Following a conference between Commissioner Siddons, Roger J. Whiteford, Assistant Corporation Counsel, and an attorney for the loan companies yesterday, it was announced that twelve companies had agreed to the terms offered by the prosecuting officers.

The compromise was reached late yesterday afternoon. Under the agreement defendants will plead guilty and pay a fine of \$100 for the first offense. For the second offense they agree to the imposition of a fine of \$200 and a jail sentence for the manager. This sentence is to be suspended with the understanding that in the event of a third offense it will become operative with an additional penalty.

The companies agree also to accept in full payment of all loans made since March 6, 1912, three-fourths of the principal in the event a case now pending in the Supreme Court to test the constitutionality of the "loan shark" act is declared in favor of the companies. It is agreed that they may collect the remaining one-fourth of the debt.

Opportunity to accept this compromise, Mr. Whiteford said today, will be offered to all the defendant loan companies. It is his belief, he said, that it will be accepted.

Prosecution will be entered against the company because of a circular letter sent to its clients criticizing that provision of the law providing for a fine of \$100 for the first offense, and characterizing those who took advantage of it as "pickers." This company, it was said, will not be offered a compromise.

FLOODS MENACE CITY; FACTORIES FORCED TO CLOSE

Dykes Built to Protect Gas, Water, and Light Plants in Binghamton.

\$500,000 DAMAGE AND TWO LIVES ALREADY LOST

Susquehanna and Chenango Rivers Rising — Families Move to Upper Floors.

BINGHAMTON, March 28.—Binghamton today faced the worst flood since 1885.

With a half million dollars damage already done, two lives lost, and the Susquehanna and Chenango rivers rising at a rate of two inches an hour, gangs of men were building dykes to prevent the flooding of the gas, electric light, and water plants of the city.

Rain was falling steadily today. The rivers were at a twenty-foot stage at noon, but one foot below the record of 1902. Many portions of the city are inundated and hundreds of families have moved to the second floors of their homes.

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Factories Forced to Close

Municipal ferries have been put in operation in the low lying sections of the city.

Many manufacturing plants were forced to close down today because of high waters, and hundreds were thrown out of work. Fire department engines were pressed into service to pump water from the basement of the big department store.

ALBANY, N. Y., March 28.—Serious floods today threaten nearly a score of cities and towns of New York and Pennsylvania. Lowlands are flooded and with a steady rain fall, preparations are being made to meet serious conditions. The Susquehanna river, which is out of its banks at Binghamton, has also reached the flood stage in Pennsylvania. Serious damage is threatened at Wilkes-Barre.

The Columbia river is steadily rising at Albany. Many families have moved from their homes in Renessealer across the river. From many points in the lowlands are removing their goods to higher ground.

The Mohawk river is out of its banks at Schenectady and a span of the Hextford toll bridge was washed away. In the vicinity of Elmira the Chenango river and all smaller streams are out of their banks.

Heavy rains during the past two days, following the melting of the deep snow throughout the State, have caused all streams to approach the flood stage.

Torrents in Tonawanda Creek Imperil Bridges

BUFFALO, March 28.—Flood conditions in various parts of western New York continued serious today following two days of heavy rain. Rowboats are being used by hundreds of tourists at Post Steuben county. Heavy damage has been done between Pendleton, Niagara county, and Getzville, and at Batavia, Lockport, Corning, and Olean. Rain continued to fall at intervals today.

The jam of ice in Tonawanda creek at Pendleton went out last night and gave relief, although a great deal of water continued to pour down from the territory between Pendleton and Linden hills. Cables were attached to the bridge to save them.

The railroad bridge at Getzville, Genesee county, on the Erie's Attica branch, was washed out and the train was diverted over the Central tracks. In Alexander houses are completely surrounded by water.

COMMITTEE NEEDS \$150 FOR "CLEAN-UP"

Expect Citizens' Associations to Do Their Part by Removing Refuge in Sections.

Announcement was made today by the clean city committee that no part of its general fund will be used in the removal of refuse. This work will be left to the various citizens' organizations participating in the crusade, each one of which will be held responsible for the work in the territory covered by the organization. The associations will not be asked to contribute to the fund, but will be counted upon for the removal of all refuse in their sections.

The clean city committee needs \$150, the greater part of which will be expended in the distribution of "clean-up" cards and circulars containing suggestions for sanitary improvements. Contributions should be sent to Mr. Charles M. Clark, chairman of the financial committee, 528 Waverley street, west.

The next meeting of the committee will be held in the District building on April 7 instead of April 3.

Bill for Promotion of Major Armes is Defeated

Senator Chamberlain of the Military Committee today made an adverse report on the bill of Senator Sheppard authorizing the appointment of Major George A. Armes, U. S. A., retired, to the rank and grade of brigadier general on the retired list without increase of pay.

The report was adopted and the bill was indefinitely postponed, and thus killed.

WHY TAKE ANY RISK OF ANY KIND?



News Item—Dr. Kimball recommends that District purchase the tract adjoining the Brent School, and tear down the ramshackle frame buildings within ten feet of the school walls.

Adventures of a Modern Robinson Crusoe

Will tell of his adventures in the Times Sunday. He has recounted, in an interview with J. R. Hildebrand, one of the most thrilling tales of daring, grit, and nerve known to modern times. And this is a true story, involving the fate of nations, and the risk of human lives.

An Official Curfew Law

Is advocated by one Washington official. Others, high in public life, deplore the strenuous social game, as played in the National Capital. One Cabinet member outlines a social program that would make Roosevelt look like an apostle of the quiet life. An intimate story of social life, with side-lights on the "social lobby," will be told in Sunday's Times.

"The City Beautiful"

This is the height of ambition of those earnest workers who have allied themselves with the People's Garden Association. Though such a deal may seem impossible of accomplishment, practical development of the idea is illustrated in The Sunday Times in a story by Mrs. L. V. H. Bien.

Standardizing the Tango.

How New York is standardizing the tango, most persistent of the modern dances, is told in The Sunday Times by Marguerite Mooers Marshall. Go-as-you-please glides and steps are no longer good form. You who would be informed, read what she has to say, and see the illustrations by Mr. and Mrs. Castle, Quentin Todd, and Mrs. Matthews.

More Washington Beauties!

Pictures are coming so fast that The Times Beauty Board again has thrown up its hands. So tomorrow the accumulation of "first choices" will take up a full page. This will be the most dazzling beauty show yet attempted in Washington. See whether you recognize any of your friends among them.

Stories of Children.

Are you acquainted with many children in Washington? Would you like to be? Read the story in The Sunday Times, written by Mary Edna Noyes, and you will feel that you have an intimate acquaintance with a group of little tots whose parents' names not only figure prominently in the social columns of the daily papers, but whose names will doubtless go down into the history of the country.

What Society Is Doing.

Jean Eliot has written a full page of gossip about society folks in Washington which will appear in The Sunday Afternoon Times. Do not miss reading it if you would know the inside of the social doings in the Nation's Capital.

FIRE DANGER TO SCHOOLS MINIMIZED BY CITY ARCHITECT

Snowden Ashford Declares Risks at Brent School Are Nil—Reports Show Protection Afforded.

Fairbrother School Has Warehouse Stored With Inflammable Material Only Fifty Feet Away.

By J. R. HILDEBRAND.

A clean bill of health for the District schools, so far as any fire risk is concerned, was made today by Snowden Ashford, municipal architect, in a statement to Commissioner Harding at the Commissioner's request.

In another statement to The Times representative, Mr. Ashford declared the danger of loss of life at the Brent School, where Supervising Principal A. G. Kimball, complained frame buildings were only ten feet removed from the building, was practically nil. He agreed with Dr. Kimball in asserting there was a slight risk of damage to District property.

"It would take at least ten minutes for a fire to gain any headway even in the frame buildings," said Mr. Ashford. "And in that time the building could be emptied."

Barrels in Old Warehouse.

It was admitted that conditions at the Brent school, where the fire prevailed at the Bradley School, and in a lesser degree at the Fairbrother School, across an alley from the former building, there are frame dwelling houses. Less than fifty feet from the new Fairbrother building, at Tenth and E streets, a large frame building, used as a warehouse, in it old barrels and other inflammable material is stored.

The report submitted to Commissioner Harding was the outgrowth of a request made by F. A. Penning, chairman of the fire committee, to make public schools, for exact information concerning the fire risk in the city's school buildings.

The municipal architect goes into the fire protection matter in detail, beginning with the report submitted in 1906 of a committee, of which Mr. Ashford and two builders, named to investigate the fire danger and to make recommendations to increase the safety of the buildings.

This committee reported that "many of the fireproof storage buildings are fireproof over the furnaces, but during the past year most of them have been fire heating apparatus installed in an examination of the staircases in District school buildings shows that generally they are of ample size."

Recommendations Followed.

This committee made recommendations for improvements to decrease the chances of accident in case of fire and the report states "their recommendations have been followed."

Mr. Ashford then quotes the report of the superintendent of repairs for 1911, as follows:

"Since the Collinwood fire, appropriations have been made as follows: For replacing wooden stairways in brick buildings, \$50,000 in 1903; replacing wooden fireproofing in brick buildings, \$100,000 in 1904; removal of old and unsuitable fire ladders and fire escapes, \$100,000 in 1905; removal of old and unsuitable fireproofing in brick buildings, \$100,000 in 1906; so much thereof as was necessary, to be immediately available for repairs and improvements to school buildings and grounds, providing additional fireproofing, fireproof fireproof heating apparatus, fireproofing corridors, alterations to heat and vent ducts, fireproofing of fuel and ash, and the purchase and erection of fire extinguishers and fire alarms, \$27,500 in 1911.

"For protection the purchase and erection of fire extinguishers and fire alarms, \$27,500 in 1912, or a total of \$155,000 for protection against fire."

What Has Been Done.

In accordance with the provisions of the appropriation acts, Mr. Ashford states he has put iron stairways in about forty buildings, constructed about forty-one iron and fireproofed about twenty-six exit doors and opened twenty-eight new doors, has put fireproof material on twenty-nine ceilings, has installed practically all fireproof fireproof heating apparatus, alterations to heat and vent ducts, fireproofing corridors, construction of fireproofing of fuel and ash, and the purchase and erection of fire extinguishers and fire alarms.

At the work of this character has been accomplished, the exception being the fireproofing of the second-floor corridors in several of the schools, and a number of the schools buildings of this city in a safe condition if properly used and cared for.

He then cites last year's report, which says:

"The appropriation of \$25,000 for fire protection has been expended in improv-

President Ready to Aid Plaza Owners

Will Ask Congress to Pass Measure for Payment of Uncontested Awards.

President Wilson, it is believed, will ask members of Congress to support the Sherman bill, or some similar measure to provide relief for the property-owner affected by the President's refusal to approve the Union Station plaza awards. The Sherman bill authorizes the President to give his separate approval to those awards about which there is no question of excessive allowances by the condemnation jury. As the evidence thus far adduced shows that the prices were excessive only with regard to the Baltimore and Ohio railroad awards, the passage of the bill would relieve the distress of all the small owners.

Next Monday the President will give a hearing to the committee of property owners praying for relief. J. S. Carmichael, chairman of the committee, will lay before the Chief Executive a brief tending to show that under the law as it now stands, he would have authority to approve the smaller awards separately. In lieu of the President's acceptance of this idea, and such acceptance is not likely, the committee will ask him to urge remedial legislation upon Congress.

TOLD TO LEARN LAW BY READING PAPERS

Violator of Traffic Ordinance Warned by Judge Pugh to Keep Himself Posted.

Washington newspapermen are a better medium of education than anything else. Careful reading of them will provide a knowledge that can be gained through no other channel. They have everything in them from a divorce proceeding to a tennis game. It costs men a lot of money every day through ignorance of what is in the papers. You ought to subscribe for one as soon as you get out of this "court room."

This tribute to the value of the press was given by Judge James L. Pugh in Police Court today when Simon Kellner was on trial for violating a traffic regulation. He pleaded ignorance to the regulation by saying that he never read the papers. Judge Pugh told him the traffic laws were given wide publicity and that a man would pay more in fines than it cost to subscribe for a paper. He took Kellner's personal bond after advising him to subscribe for a newspaper, and thus kept informed on traffic regulations and other laws.